CLAIMS

1. A method for selecting a beverage through an online site computer network, the steps comprising:

posting a selection of beverages available at a site for consumption on either an exclusive basis or a shared basis on a computer network local to said site at locations throughout the site where patrons are situated during a predetermined time interval;

permitting each of said patrons at said site to select at least one beverage on an exclusive or shared basis from said posted selection by hand held computer units networked to said system;

displaying said selections available based on stock and share selections from patrons so that other patrons can join in any of the shared selections and displaying the amount of time remaining in said predetermined time interval before said selection process is terminated by the computer network.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said beverage is wine.

3. The method according to claim1 wherein said site is a restaurant.

4. The method according to claim 2 further comprising the step of permitting each of said patrons to select meal courses through said computer network and having the computer network recommend a suitable wine or wines for said selected meal courses.

6. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of during said selection of said at least one beverage permitting each of said patrons along with said selection of said at least one beverage to submit a bid for a price that is at least as much as a minimum price posted by the system for the selected beverage on either an exclusive or shared basis and permitting other patrons to bid for said selected beverage on either an exclusive or shared basis and posting bids as submitted until the predetermined time interval expires and at the end of said predetermined time interval said selected beverage is awarded to said highest bid or bids for shared bidders.

7. A system for selecting a beverage through an online site computer network, comprising:

a computer network local to said site including hand held computer units located throughout the site at locations where patrons are situated for posting a selection of beverages available at a site for consumption on either an exclusive basis or a shared basis ;

menu selections one each of said networked hand held computer unit to permit each of said patrons at said site to select at least one beverage on an exclusive or shared basis from said posted selection by said system;

display means for displaying at said site said selections available based on stock and share selections from patrons so that other patrons can join in any of the shared selections and for displaying the amount of time remaining in said predetermined interval before said selection process is terminated by the computer network.

8. The system according to claim 7 wherein said beverage is wine.

9. The system according to claim 7 wherein said site is a restaurant.

10. The system according to claim 7 further comprising menu selections on each of said networked hand held computer units to permit each of said patrons to select meal courses through said computer network and having the computer network recommend a suitable wine or wines for said selected meal courses.

11. The method according to claim 7 further comprising menu selections, during said selection of said at least one beverage, for, along with said selection of a beverage by said one of said patrons, submitting a bid for a price that is at least as much as a minimum price posted by the system for said selected beverage on either an exclusive or shared basis and for permitting other patrons to bid for said selected beverage on either an exclusive or shared basis and posting bids as submitted until the predetermined time interval expires and at the end of said predetermined time interval said selected beverage is awarded to said highest bid or bids for shared bidders.